

Message Text

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ACTION OPR-02

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O R 291755Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1327
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
USUN NEW YORK 2476

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 7798

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (FORD, GERALD) IT
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

1. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT GOI IS PLANNING SOME OFFICIAL
ROLE DURING PRESIDENTIAL VISIT FOR RAIMONDO MANZINI, CURRENTLY
ITALIAN AMBASSADOR IN LONDON, SCHEDULED TO BECOME SECRETARY
GENERAL (NUMBER ONE PROFESSIONAL) IN FOREIGN MINISTRY SOMETIME
THIS SUMMER. ALTHOUGH MANZINI'S ROLE IN THE VISIT HAS YET TO
BE DEFINED, LIKELY IT WILL BE IN ADVISORY (AND LEARNING)
CAPACITY, BUT THERE IS SOME POSSIBILITY HE WILL BE AMONG GOI
PARTICIPANTS IN TALKS. BASIC BIOGRAPHIC DATA BELOW WILL BE
SUPPLEMENTED BY SEPTTEL FROM LONDON.

2. THERE IS ALSO POSSIBILITY THAT AMBASSADOR EUGENIO PLAJA,
CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO UNITED NATIONS AND NEWLY-NAMED DIRECTOR
GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, WILL
HAVE A PART IN THE VISIT. PLAJA, WHO WILL SUCCEED AMBASSADOR
ROBERTO DUCCI (ASSIGNED TO LONDON) IS CURRENTLY IN ROME.
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ALTHOUGH IT DOUBTFUL THAT HE WOULD PARTICIPATE IN TALKS, IT

SEEMS LIKELY HE WOULD REMAIN FOR THE VISIT AS ADVISOR AND IN PREPARATION FOR THE NEW JOB WHICH HE WILL ASSUME THIS SUMMER.

3. BIOGRAPHIC DATA: RAIMONDO MANZINI. BORN BOLOGNA, 1913; DOCTORATE IN LAW, UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA, 1938. A CAREER FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, MANZINI HAS HAD A GEOGRAPHICALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY VARIED CAREER SINCE HE ENTERED DUTY IN 1940. AFTER A BRIEF CONSULAR STINT AT SAN FRANCISCO IN 1941, HE MOVED TO DIPLOMATIC SERVICE IN LISBON, LONDON, MOGADISCIO, LEOPOLDVILLE AND STUTTGART. HE HAS SERVED IN ROME IN THE MINISTRY'S CULTURAL RELATIONS DIVISION, AS CHIEF OF SECRETARIAT, AND (TWICE) ON DETAIL TO THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES. ELEVENTH IN SENIORITY AMONG ITALIAN AMBASSADORS, MANZINI HAS SERVED IN THAT CAPACITY AT OECD, AND SINCE 1968 IN LONDON.

4. BIOGRAPHIC DATA: EUGENIO PLAJA. BORN AT ROME, 1914; DOCTORATE IN LAW, UNIVERSITY OF PALERMO, 1935. A CAREER FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, PLAJA SERVED IN CONSULAR AND DIPLOMATIC POSITIONS AT CHAMBERY, CANNES, BUENOS AIRES, SANTIAGO, BEFORE BEGINNING IN 1955 HIS LONG ASSOCIATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK. LEAVING NEW YORK IN 1962, HE BECAME A DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL IN THE OFFICE OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE MOVED TO DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EMIGRATION IN 1963 AND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PERSONNEL IN 1967. THIRTEENTH IN SENIORITY AMONG ITALIAN AMBASSADORS, HE HAS SERVED IN THAT CAPACITY IN CAIRO AND, CURRENTLY, NEW YORK AT THE UN. PLAJA HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS GENIAL AND STRAIGHTFORWARD BUT NEITHER FORCEFUL NOR VERY EFFECTIVE IN HIS JOB. VOLPE

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